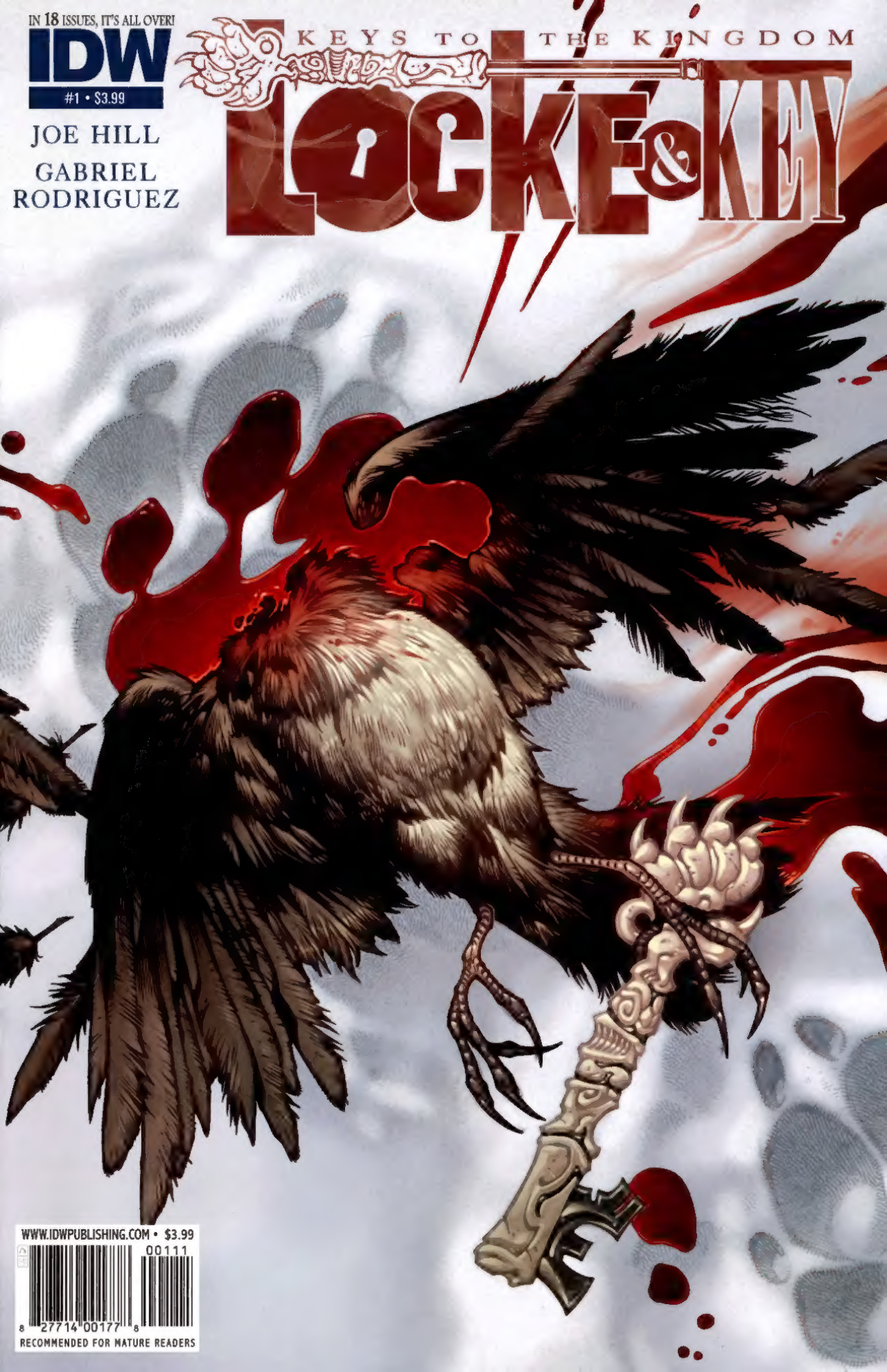
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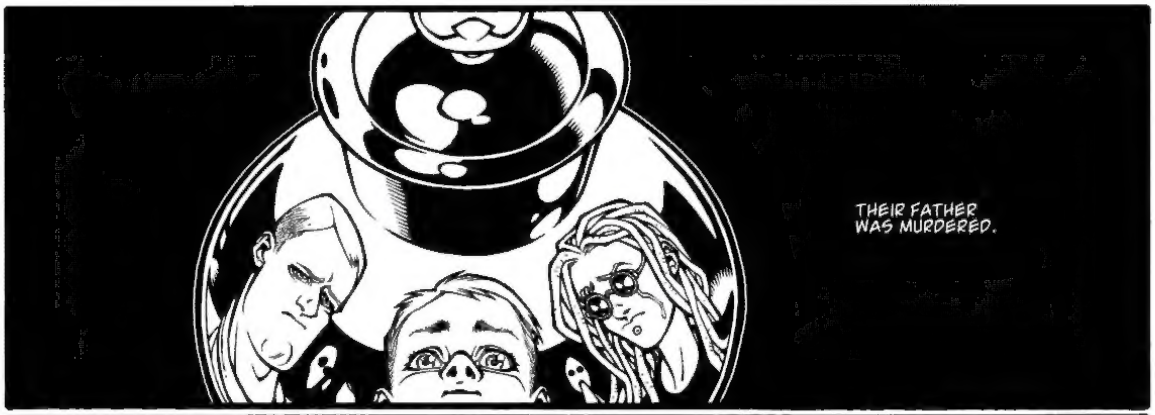

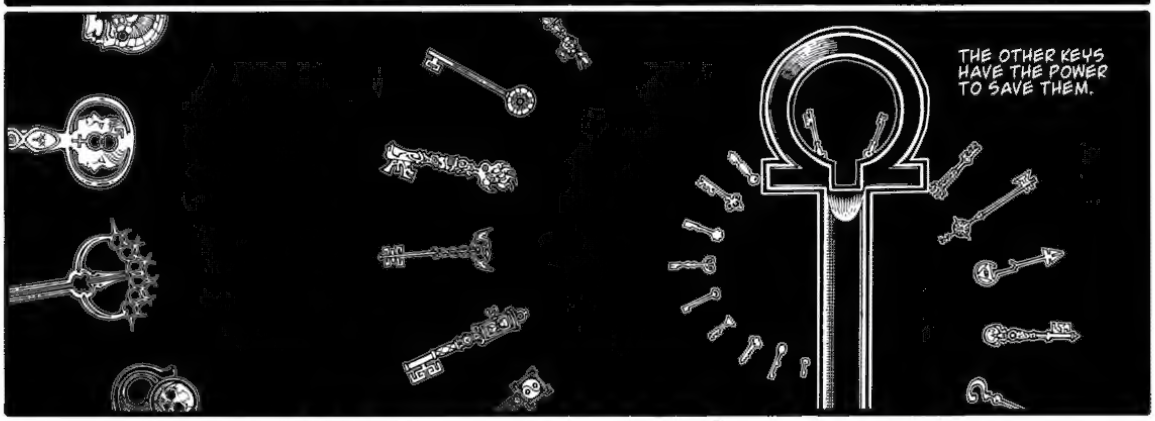

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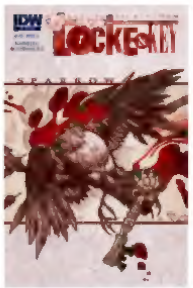

ri cover
Signed Edition

Written by: Joe Hill • Art by: Gabriel Rodriguez
Colors by: Jay Fotos • Letters by: Robbie Robbins • Edited by: Chris Ryall

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Locke & Key created by Joe Hill and Gabriel Rodriguez
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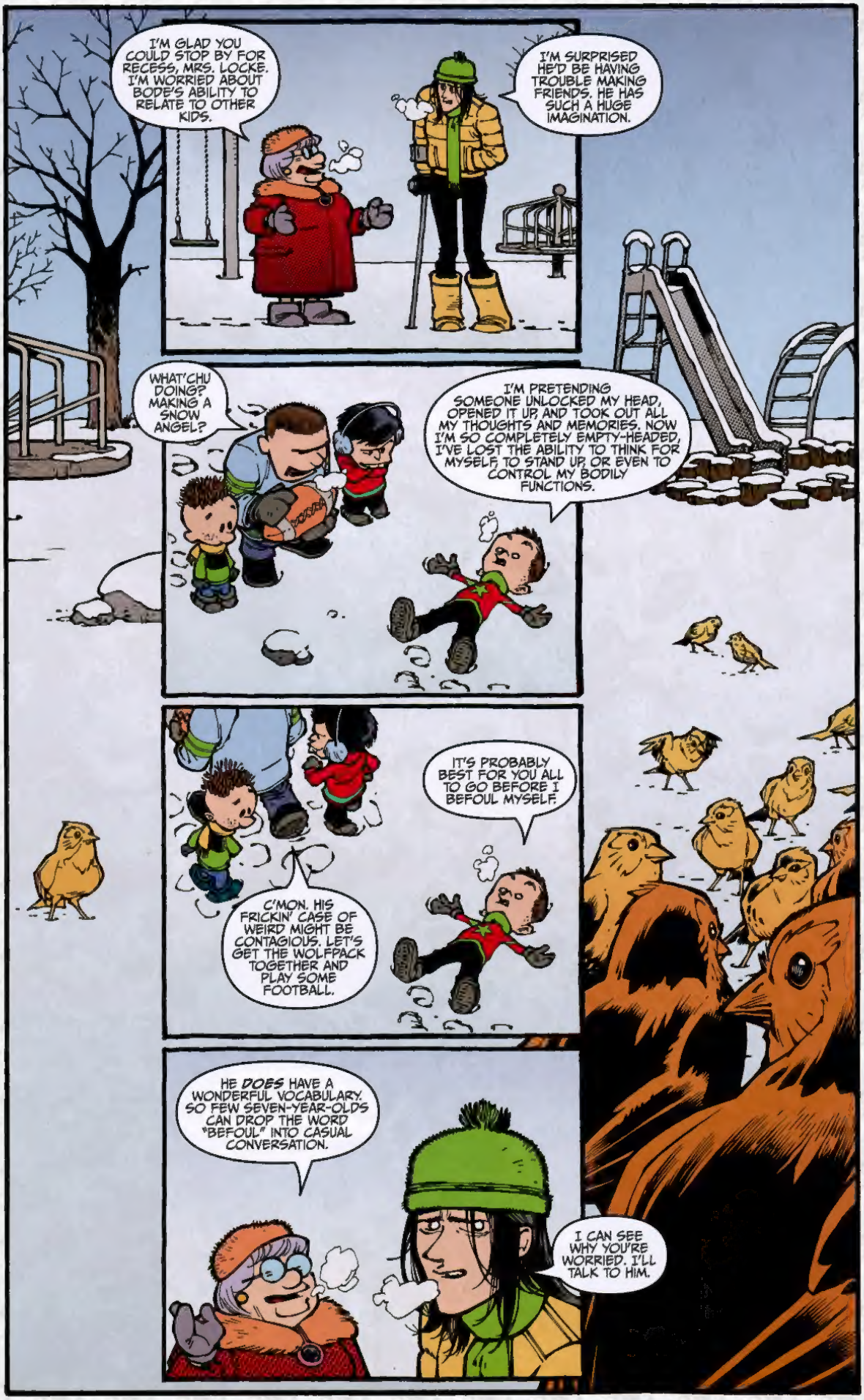
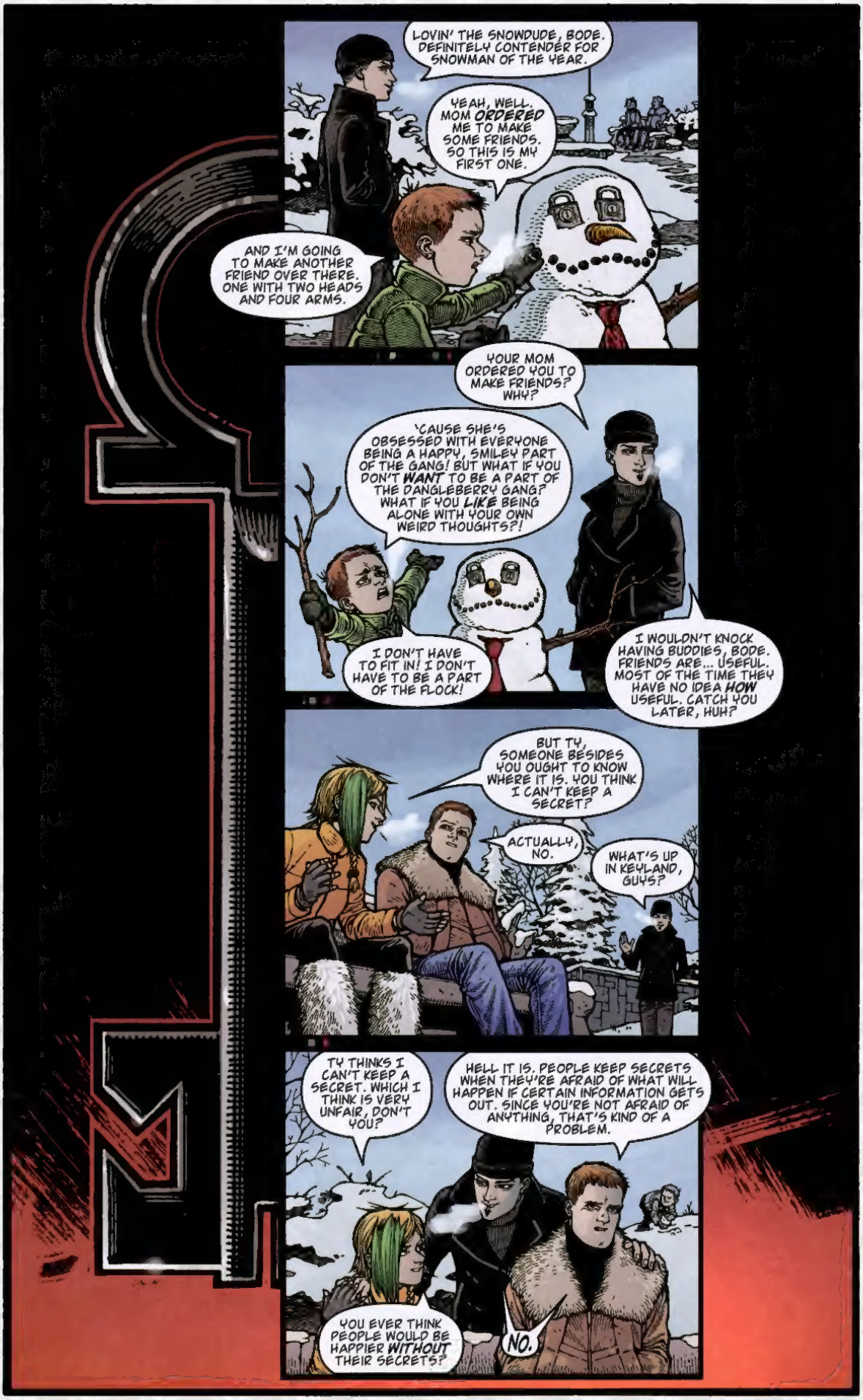
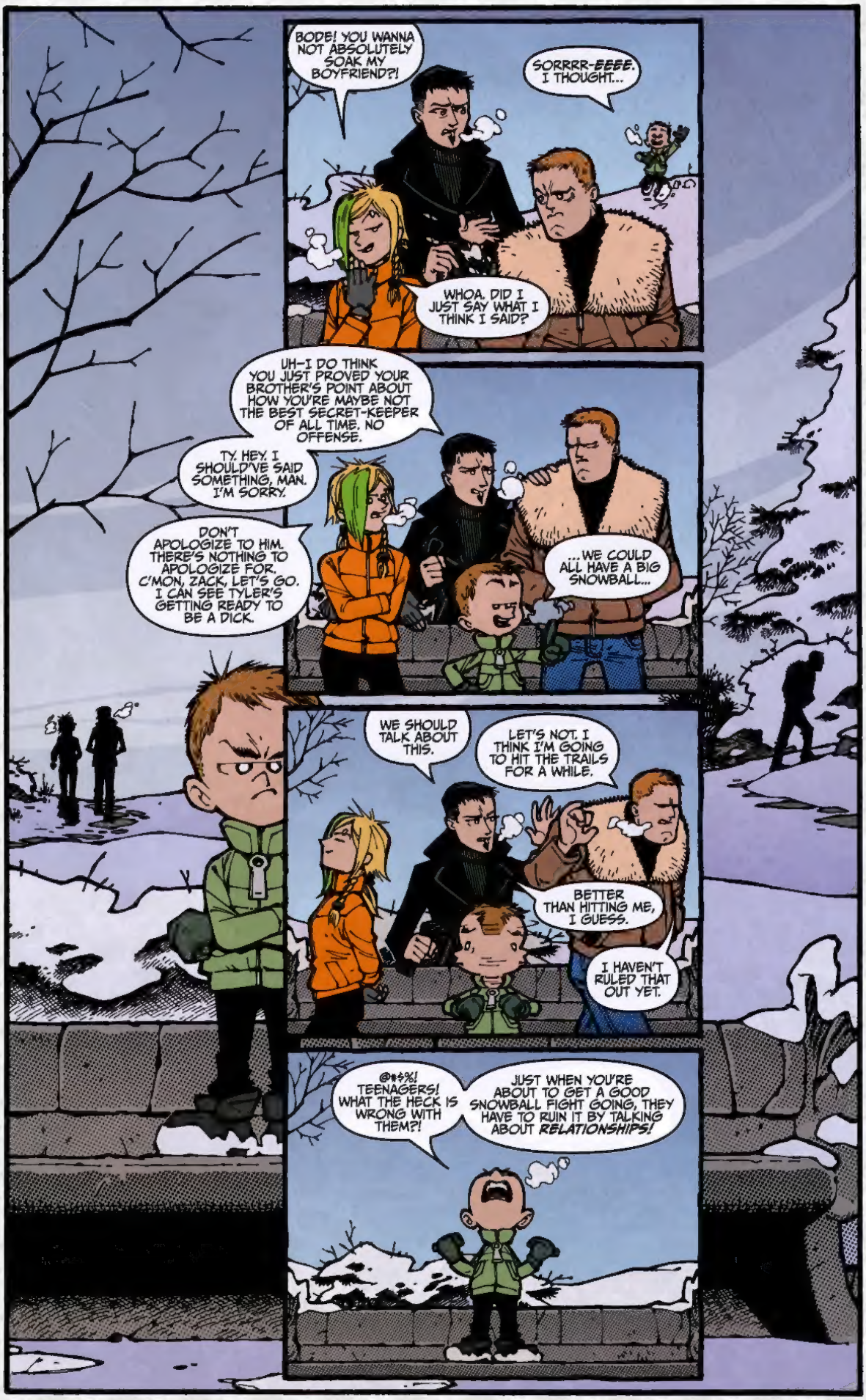
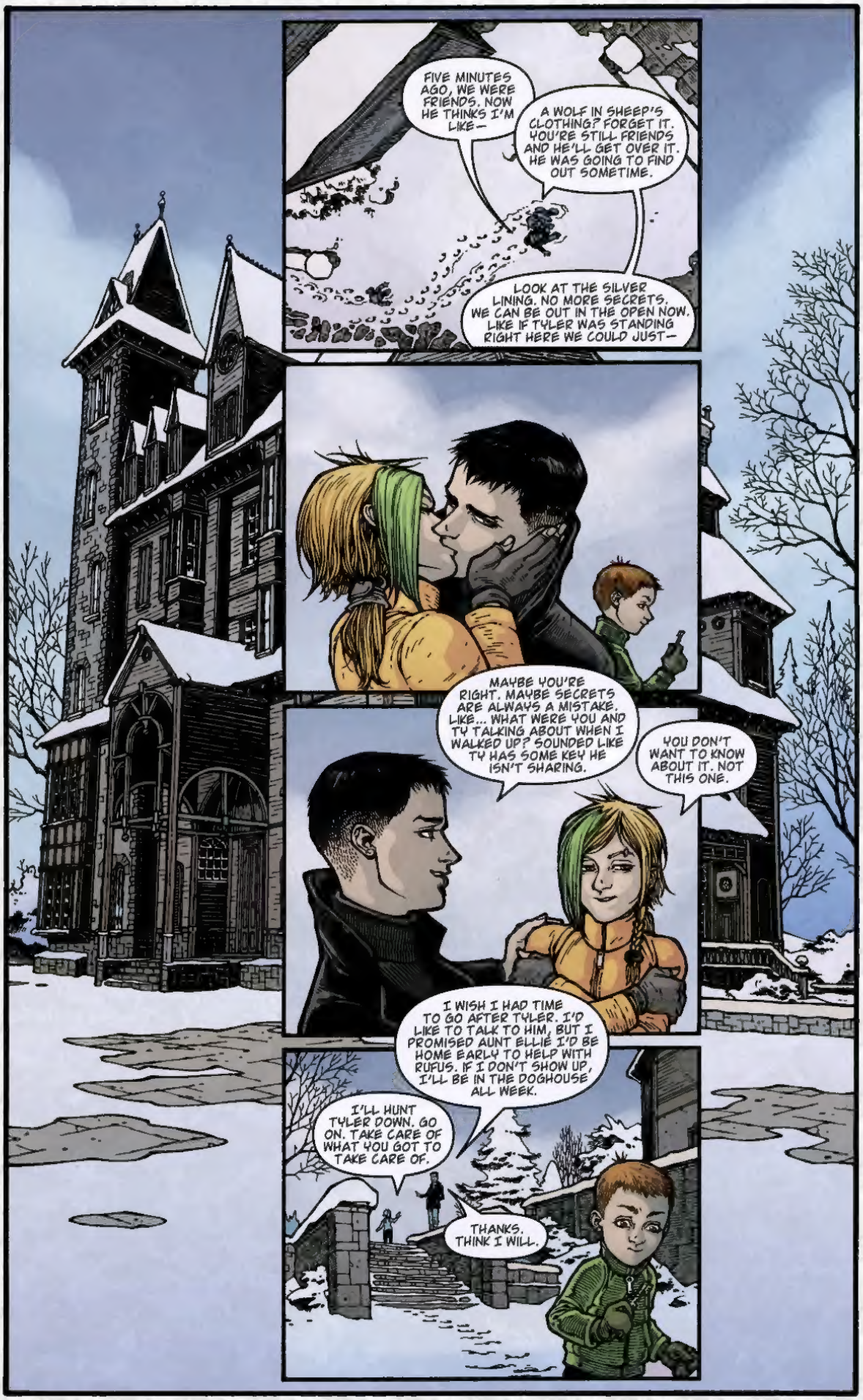

I'M GLAD YOU COULD STOP BY FOR RECESS, MRS. LOCKE. I'M WORRIED ABOUT BODE'S ABILITY TO RELATE TO OTHER KIDS.
I'M SURPRISED HE'D BE HAVING TROUBLE MAKING FRIENDS. HE HAS SUCH A HUGE IMAGINATION.
WHAT'CHU DOING? MAKING A SNOW ANGEL?
I'M PRETENDING SOMEONE UNLOCKED MY HEAD, OPENED IT UP, AND TOOK OUT ALL MY THOUGHTS AND MEMORIES. NOW I'M SO COMPLETELY EMPTY-HEADED, I'VE LOST THE ABILITY TO THINK FOR MYSELF, TO STAND UP, OR EVEN TO CONTROL MY BODILY FUNCTIONS.
IT'S PROBABLY BEST FOR YOU ALL TO GO BEFORE I BEFOUL MYSELF.
C'MON. HIS FRICKIN' CASE OF WEIRD MIGHT BE CONTAGIOUS. LET'S GET THE WOLFPACK TOGETHER AND PLAY SOME FOOTBALL.
HE *DOES* HAVE A WONDERFUL VOCABULARY. SO FEW SEVEN-YEAR-OLDS CAN DROP THE WORD "BEFOUL" INTO CASUAL CONVERSATION.
I CAN SEE WHY YOU'RE WORRIED. I'LL TALK TO HIM.


LOVIN' THE SNOWDUDE, BODE. DEFINITELY CONTENDER FOR SNOWMAN OF THE YEAR.
YEAH, WELL. MOM ORDERED ME TO MAKE SOME FRIENDS. SO THIS IS MY FIRST ONE.
AND I'M GOING TO MAKE ANOTHER FRIEND OVER THERE. ONE WITH TWO HEADS AND FOUR ARMS.
YOUR MOM ORDERED YOU TO MAKE FRIENDS? WHY?
'CAUSE SHE'S OBSESSED WITH EVERYONE BEING A HAPPY, SMILEY PART OF THE GANG! BUT WHAT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE A PART OF THE DANGLEBERRY GANG? WHAT IF YOU LIKE BEING ALONE WITH YOUR OWN WEIRD THOUGHTS?!
I DON'T HAVE TO FIT IN! I DON'T HAVE TO BE A PART OF THE FLOCK!
I WOULDN'T KNOCK HAVING BUDDIES, BODE. FRIENDS ARE... USEFUL. MOST OF THE TIME THEY HAVE NO IDEA HOW USEFUL. CATCH YOU LATER, HUH?
BUT TY, SOMEONE BESIDES YOU OUGHT TO KNOW WHERE IT IS. YOU THINK I CAN'T KEEP A SECRET?
ACTUALLY, NO.
WHAT'S UP IN KEYLAND, GUYS?
TY THINKS I CAN'T KEEP A SECRET. WHICH I THINK IS VERY UNFAIR, DON'T YOU?
HELL IT IS. PEOPLE KEEP SECRETS WHEN THEY'RE AFRAID OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF CERTAIN INFORMATION GETS OUT. SINCE YOU'RE NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING, THAT'S KIND OF A PROBLEM.
YOU EVER THINK PEOPLE WOULD BE HAPPIER WITHOUT THEIR SECRETS?
NO.

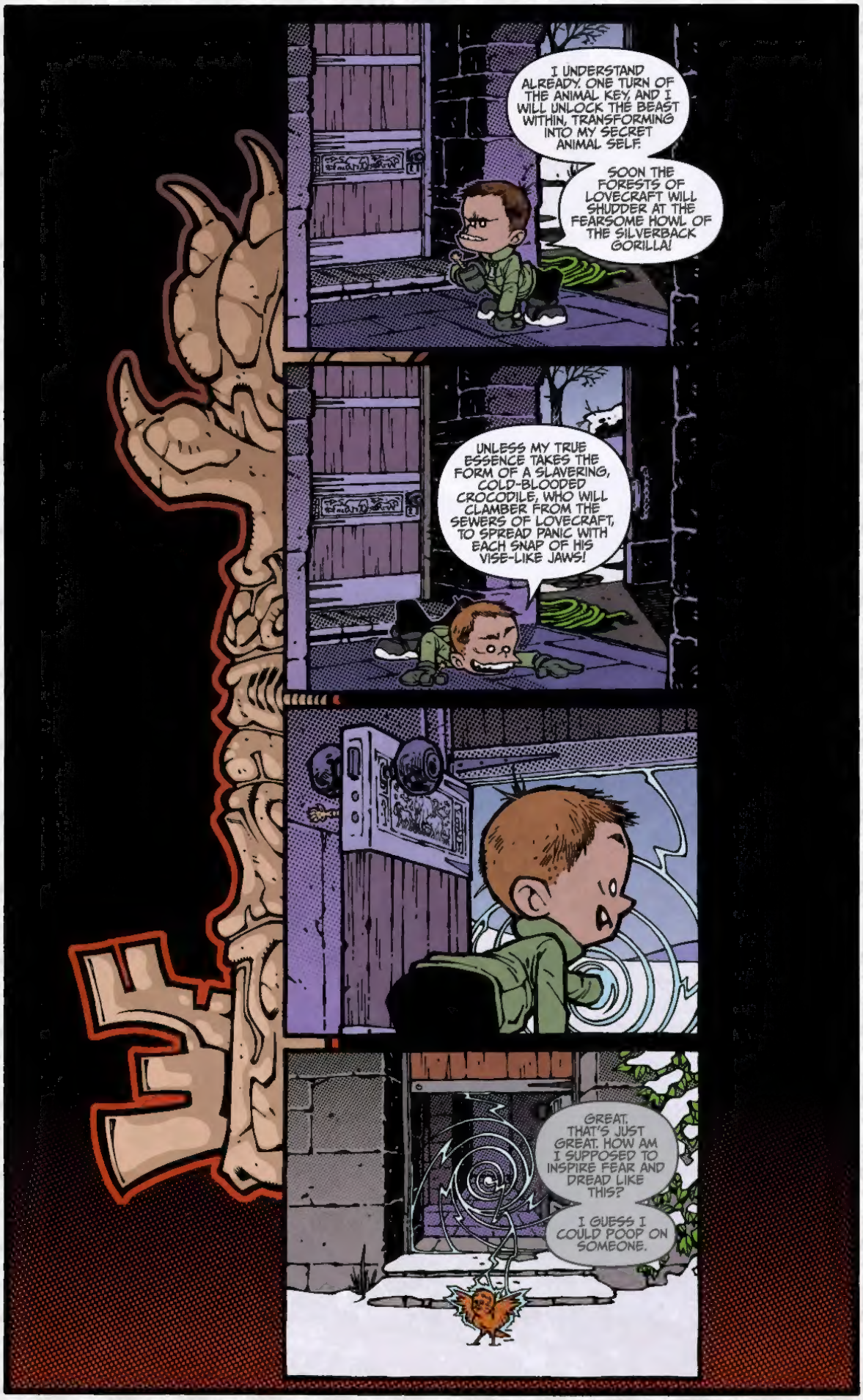
CHUBB
GOTCHA, ZACK. WUH-WANNA... UH... WANNA FIGHT?
YES. LET'S FIGHT.
GIVE IT. GIVE ME THE KEY TO THE BLACK DOOR OR THE WHORE DIES LIKE YOUR LITTLE FUCK BROTHER.
PLEASE. PLEASE...

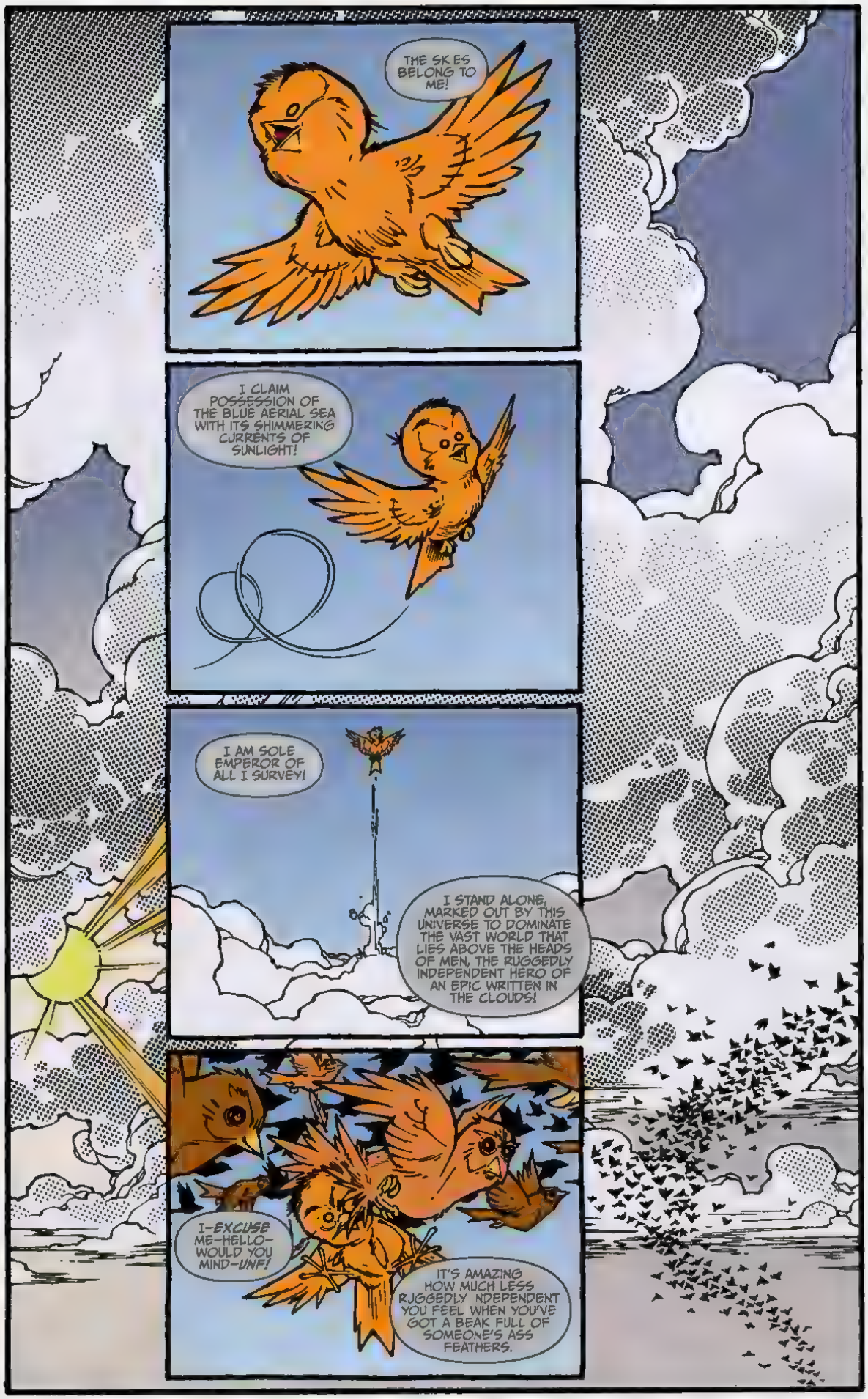

BODE! YOU WANNA NOT ABSOLUTELY SOAK MY BOYFRIEND?!
SORRRR-EEEE. I THOUGHT...
WHOA. DID I JUST SAY WHAT I THINK I SAID?
UH—I DO THINK YOU JUST PROVED YOUR BROTHER'S POINT ABOUT HOW YOU'RE MAYBE NOT THE BEST SECRET-KEEPER OF ALL TIME. NO OFFENSE.
TY. HEY. I SHOULD'VE SAID SOMETHING, MAN. I'M SORRY.
DON'T APOLOGIZE TO HIM. THERE'S NOTHING TO APOLOGIZE FOR. C'MON, ZACK, LET'S GO. I CAN SEE TYLER'S GETTING READY TO BE A DICK.
...WE COULD ALL HAVE A BIG SNOWBALL...
WE SHOULD TALK ABOUT THIS.
LET'S NOT. I THINK I'M GOING TO HIT THE TRAILS FOR A WHILE.
BETTER THAN HITTING ME, I GUESS.
I HAVEN'T RULED THAT OUT YET.
@!$%! TEENAGERS! WHAT THE HECK IS WRONG WITH THEM?!
JUST WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET A GOOD SNOWBALL FIGHT GOING, THEY HAVE TO RUIN IT BY TALKING ABOUT *RELATIONSHIPS!*

LIKE ALL BUDDING MALES, TESTOSTERONE SURGES THROUGH MY BLOOD, COMPELLING ME TO COMMIT WANTON ACTS OF BRUTALITY TO THE MOST INNOCENT CREATURES.
IT'S SOMETHING YOU CAN NEVER KNOW, PITIFUL SPARROW--THE SAVAGE THRILL OF CORNERING A WEAK, VULNERABLE, AND BASICALLY STUPID, ANIMAL WHEN IT'S ALL ALONE.
OKAY, POINT MADE.
SHREE. SHREE.
SCIENTISTS NEVER STUDY THE IMPORTANT THINGS. LIKE WHY SOME ANIMALS APPEAR TO HAVE EVOLVED THE ABILITY TO GLOAT.

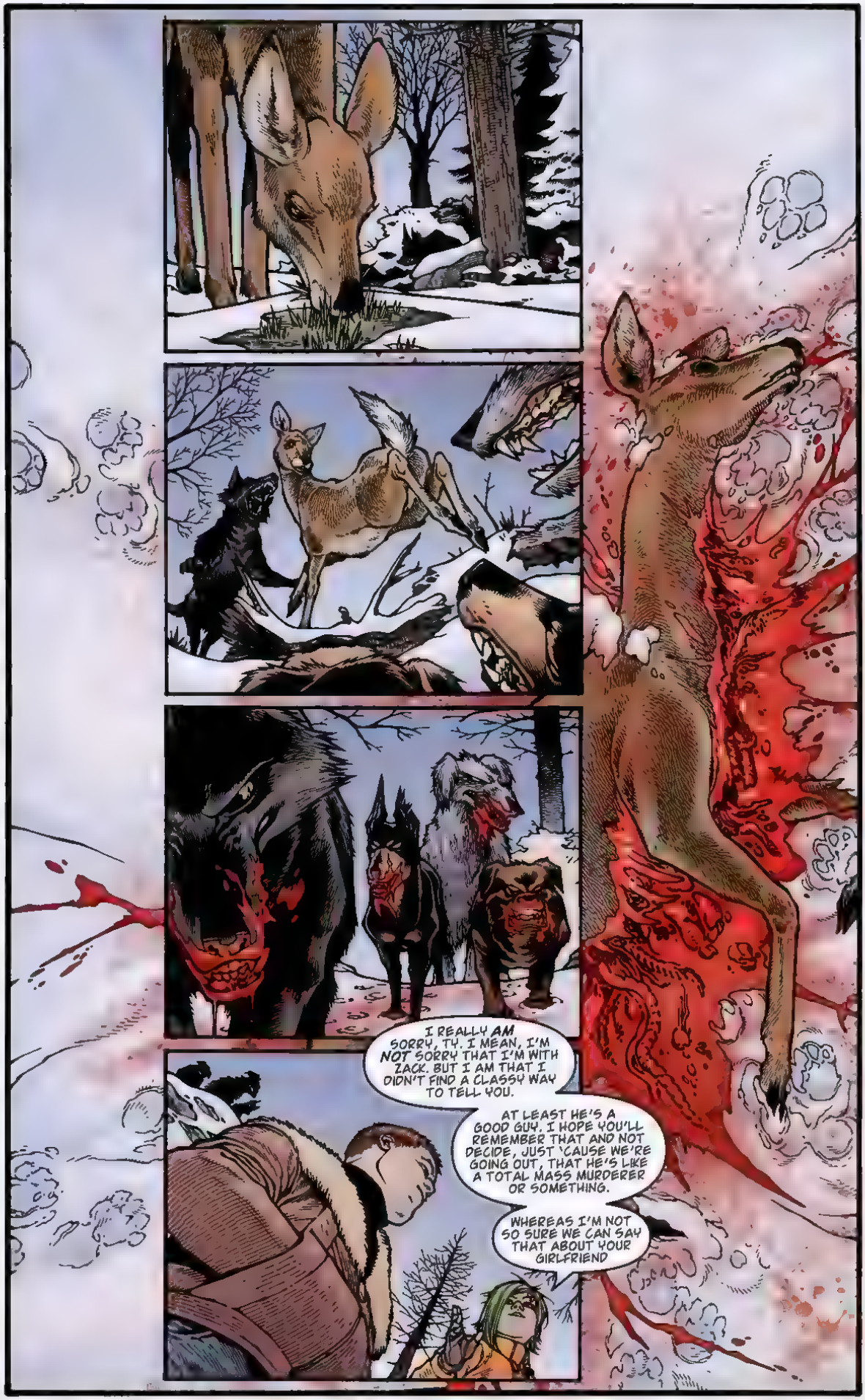

FIVE MINUTES AGO, WE WERE FRIENDS. NOW HE THINKS I'M LIKE—
A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING? FORGET IT. YOU'RE STILL FRIENDS AND HE'LL GET OVER IT. HE WAS GOING TO FIND OUT SOMETIME.
LOOK AT THE SILVER LINING. NO MORE SECRETS. WE CAN BE OUT IN THE OPEN NOW. LIKE IF TYLER WAS STANDING RIGHT HERE WE COULD JUST—
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT. MAYBE SECRETS ARE ALWAYS A MISTAKE. LIKE... WHAT WERE YOU AND TY TALKING ABOUT WHEN I WALKED UP? SOUNDED LIKE TY HAS SOME KEY HE ISN'T SHARING.
YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW ABOUT IT. NOT THIS ONE.
I WISH I HAD TIME TO GO AFTER TYLER. I'D LIKE TO TALK TO HIM, BUT I PROMISED AUNT ELLIE I'D BE HOME EARLY TO HELP WITH RUFUS. IF I DON'T SHOW UP, I'LL BE IN THE DOGHOUSE ALL WEEK.
I'LL HUNT TYLER DOWN. GO ON. TAKE CARE OF WHAT YOU GOT TO TAKE CARE OF.
THANKS. THINK I WILL.

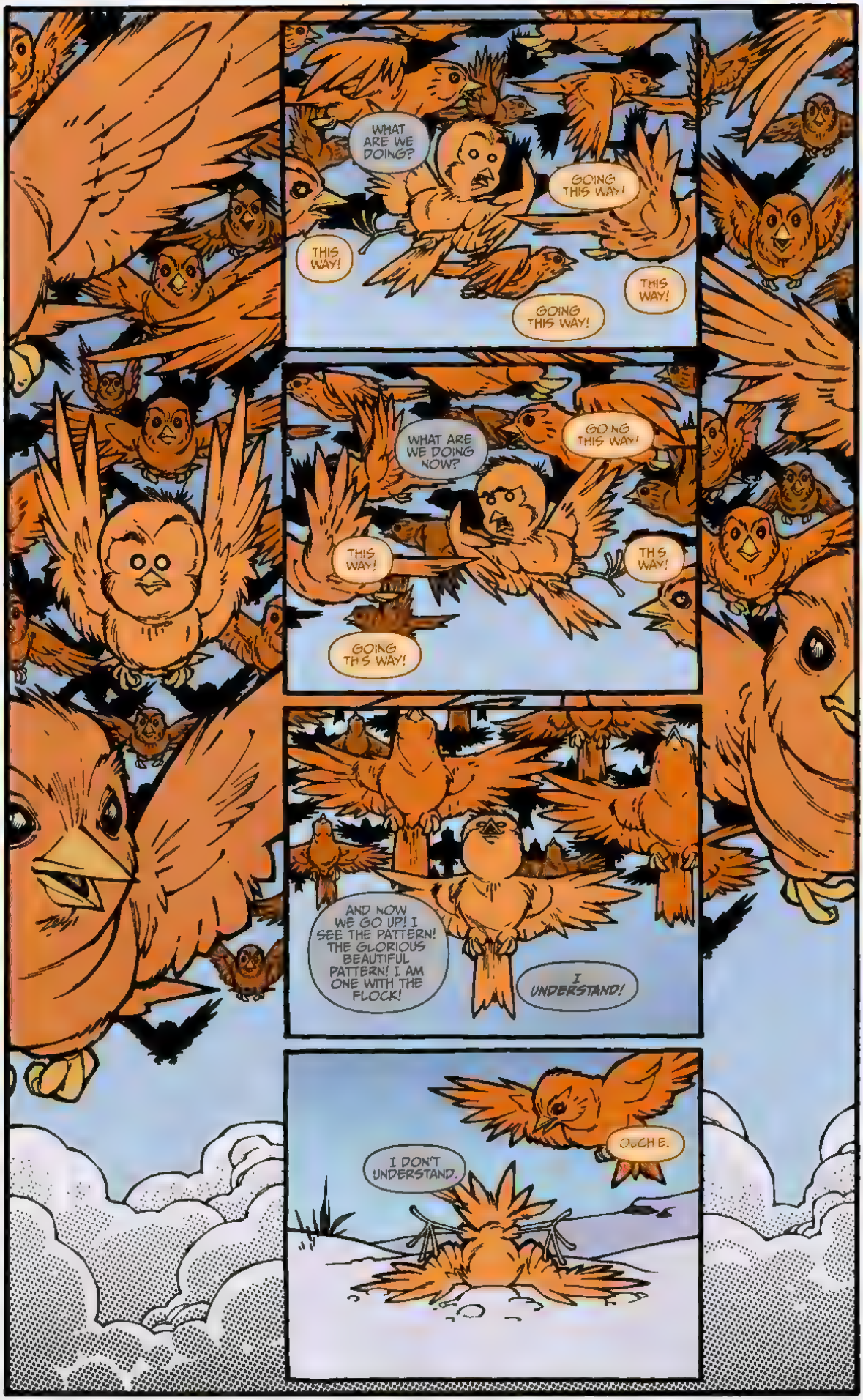
TY! TYLER! HEY!
YOU'RE SO PREDICTABLE. I KNEW YOU'D BE PISSED WHEN YOU—
I'M PREDICTABLE? HAVE I EVER HAD A FRIEND YOU *DIDN'T* WANT TO CLIMB ALL OVER?
I DON'T HAVE TO CLEAR MY BOYFRIENDS WITH YOU. JESUS, WHO THE HELL DIED AND GAVE YOU THE KEYS TO THE CHASTITY BELT?
DAD.
HE'S WHO DIED. REMEMBER HIM? YOU REMEMBER ME AND DAD WERE BARELY *TALKING* TO EACH OTHER WHEN HE GOT KILLED? YOU KNOW *WHY*? YOU HAVE ANY IDEA? DO YOU HAVE ANY FUCKING CLUE HOW MUCH OF THIS—*ALL OF IT*—IS MY FAULT?
TY. HEY. *HEY.*
NONE OF THIS IS YOUR FAULT. HOW CAN YOU EVEN THINK THAT?


I UNDERSTAND ALREADY. ONE TURN OF THE ANIMAL KEY, AND I WILL UNLOCK THE BEAST WITHIN, TRANSFORMING INTO MY SECRET ANIMAL SELF.
SOON THE FORESTS OF LOVECRAFT WILL SHUDDER AT THE FEARSOME HOWL OF THE SILVERBACK GORILLA!
UNLESS MY TRUE ESSENCE TAKES THE FORM OF A SLAVERING, COLD-BLOODED CROCODILE, WHO WILL CLAMBER FROM THE SEWERS OF LOVECRAFT, TO SPREAD PANIC WITH EACH SNAP OF HIS VISE-LIKE JAWS!
GREAT. THAT'S JUST GREAT. HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO INSPIRE FEAR AND DREAD LIKE THIS?
I GUESS I COULD POOP ON SOMEONE.


THE SKIES BELONG TO ME!
I CLAIM POSSESSION OF THE BLUE AERIAL SEA WITH ITS SHIMMERING CURRENTS OF SUNLIGHT!
I AM SOLE EMPEROR OF ALL I SURVEY!
I STAND ALONE, MARKED OUT BY THIS UNIVERSE TO DOMINATE THE VAST WORLD THAT LIES ABOVE THE HEADS OF MEN, THE RUGGEDLY INDEPENDENT HERO OF AN EPIC WRITTEN IN THE CLOUDS!
I-EXCUSE ME-HELLO-WOULD YOU MIND-UNF!
IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH LESS RUGGEDLY INDEPENDENT YOU FEEL WHEN YOU'VE GOT A BEAK FULL OF SOMEONE'S ASS FEATHERS.

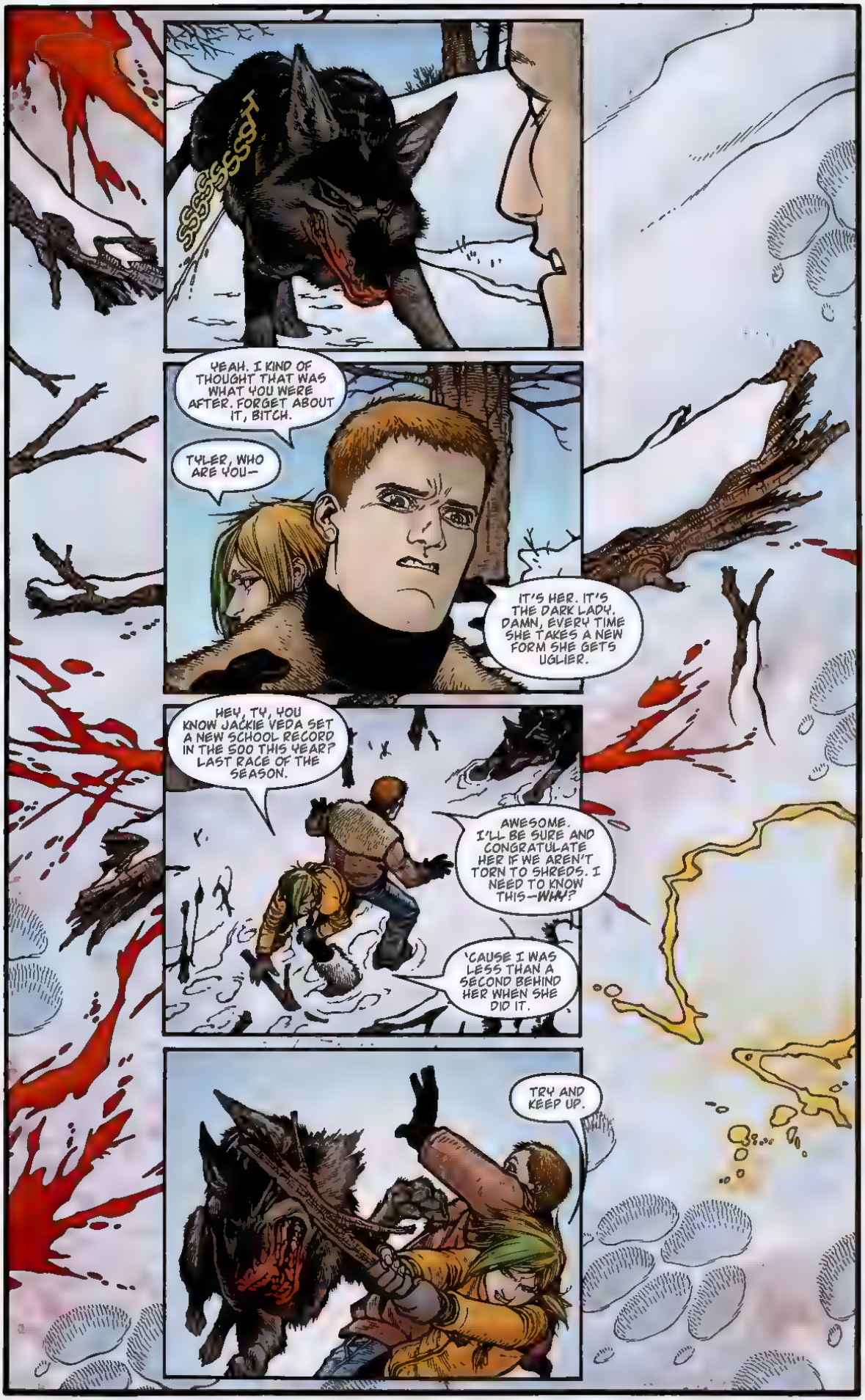
AUUAAAAAOOOOOOO
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
BEATS ME. LON CHANEY?

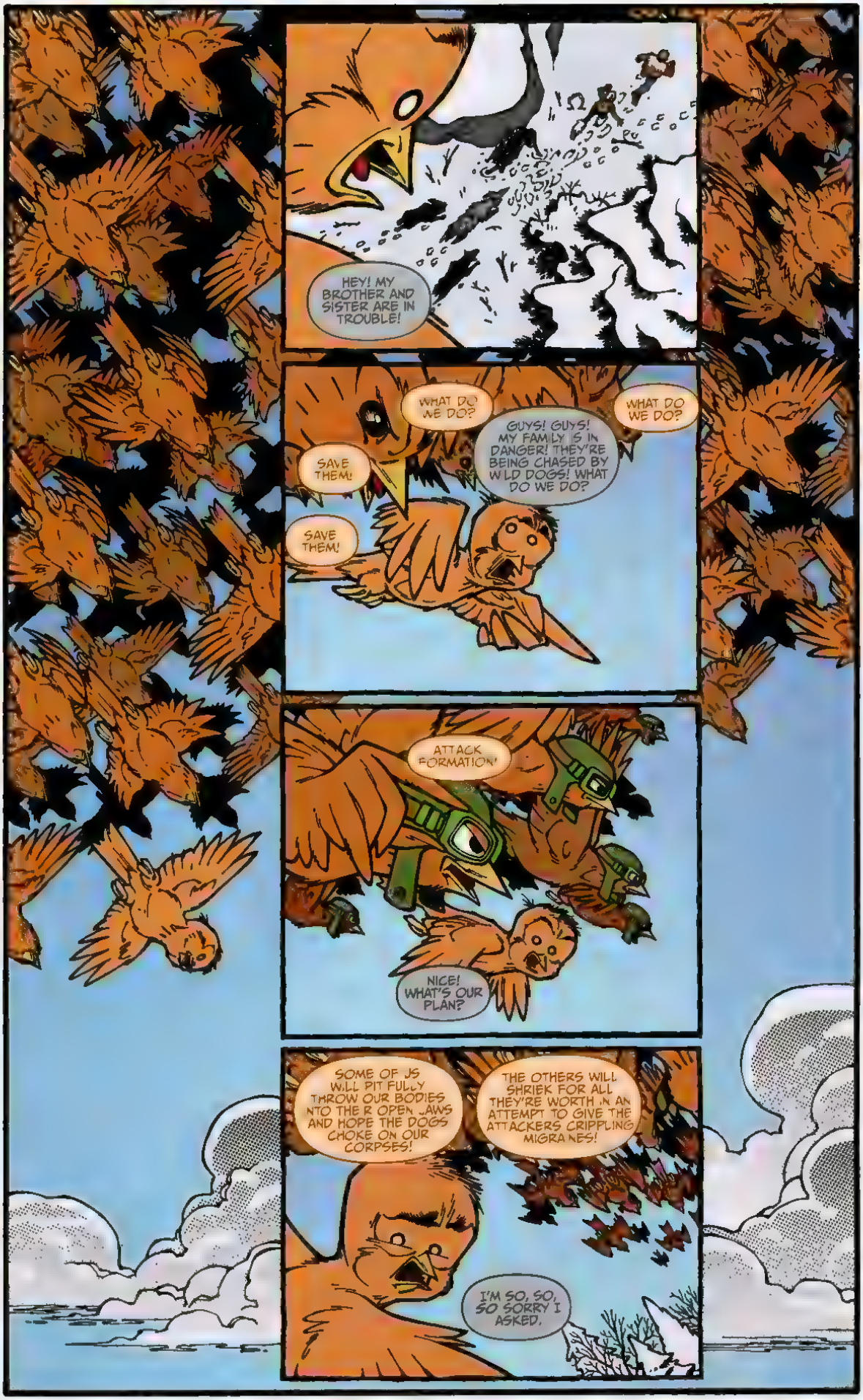

I REALLY *AM* SORRY, TY. I MEAN, I'M *NOT* SORRY THAT I'M WITH ZACK. BUT I AM THAT I DIDN'T FIND A CLASSY WAY TO TELL YOU.
AT LEAST HE'S A GOOD GUY. I HOPE YOU'LL REMEMBER THAT AND NOT DECIDE, JUST 'CAUSE WE'RE GOING OUT, THAT HE'S LIKE A TOTAL MASS MURDERER OR SOMETHING.
WHEREAS I'M NOT SO SURE WE CAN SAY THAT ABOUT YOUR GIRLFRIEND


WHAT ARE WE DOING?
GOING THIS WAY!
THIS WAY!
THIS WAY!
GOING THIS WAY!
WHAT ARE WE DOING NOW?
GOING THIS WAY!
THIS WAY!
THIS WAY!
GOING THIS WAY!
AND NOW WE GO UP! I SEE THE PATTERN! THE GLORIOUS BEAUTIFUL PATTERN! I AM ONE WITH THE FLOCK!
I UNDERSTAND!
OUCH.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

SO WHO DECIDES WHAT DIRECTION TO FLY?
ME!
ME!
ME!
OH, COME ON. SOMEONE HAS TO BE IN CHARGE.
SOMEONE HAS TO BE TOP DOG, BIG MAN, THE PREZ.
YOU CAN'T ALL BE EQUALLY IMPORTANT, OF EQUAL VALUE, AND HAVE EQUAL SAY. THAT'S MADNESS! THAT'S CHAOS! THAT'S .. THAT'S—
SHARING!
I KNOW MAN IS THE SUPERIOR SPECIES.
I JUST CAN'T [redacted] EXACTLY WHY.

I'D ASK WHAT YOU SEE IN JORDAN, BUT SINCE YOU NEVER TAKE YOUR EYES OFF HER ASS—
IT ISN'T JUST THAT. I MEAN, SHE IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL WHO'S EVER ACTUALLY TALKED TO ME. BUT IT'S SOMETHING ELSE TOO.
I'VE HEARD STORIES ABOUT HER. SHE'S BEEN KNOCKED AROUND SOME. IF SHE GETS ANGRY, IT'S ONLY 'CAUSE SHE'S AFRAID OF TRUSTING PEOPLE. I FEEL LIKE—SOMEHOW— IF I COULD HELP HER A LITTLE—IF I COULD FIX...
WHAT, YOU'RE GOING TO FIX HER? FIRST YOU TELL ME EVERYTHING'S YOUR FAULT, THEN YOU SAY YOU'RE GOING TO FIX THIS GIRL. IF YOU COULD GET OUTSIDE YOUR OWN HEAD FOR A MINUTE, I THINK—TY!
AA!
GNNNNNNN.
FUCK YOU WANT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHAT DO THEY WANT? THEY WANT DINNER.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.


SSSSSSSSHT
YEAH. I KIND OF THOUGHT THAT WAS WHAT YOU WERE AFTER. FORGET ABOUT IT, BITCH.
TYLER, WHO ARE YOU—
IT'S HER. IT'S THE DARK LADY. DAMN, EVERY TIME SHE TAKES A NEW FORM SHE GETS UGLIER.
HEY, TY, YOU KNOW JACKIE VEDA SET A NEW SCHOOL RECORD IN THE 500 THIS YEAR? LAST RACE OF THE SEASON.
AWESOME. I'LL BE SURE AND CONGRATULATE HER IF WE AREN'T TORN TO SHREDS. I NEED TO KNOW THIS—WHY?
'CAUSE I WAS LESS THAN A SECOND BEHIND HER WHEN SHE DID IT.
TRY AND KEEP UP.


HEY! MY BROTHER AND SISTER ARE IN TROUBLE!
WHAT DO WE DO?
SAVE THEM!
GUYS! GUYS! MY FAMILY IS IN DANGER! THEY'RE BEING CHASED BY WILD DOGS! WHAT DO WE DO?
WHAT DO WE DO?
SAVE THEM!
ATTACK FORMATION!
NICE! WHAT'S OUR PLAN?
SOME OF US WILL PIT FULLY THROW OUR BODIES INTO THE R OPEN JAWS AND HOPE THE DOGS CHOKE ON OUR CORPSES!
THE OTHERS WILL SHRIEK FOR ALL THEY'RE WORTH IN AN ATTEMPT TO GIVE THE ATTACKERS CRIPPLING MIGRAINES!
I'M SO, SO, SO SORRY I ASKED.

STOP RIGHT THERE OR I'LL~
NOOOO!
SCHMACK
FALL DEAD IN A MESS OF BLOOD AND FEATHERS?
THIS IS THE LAW OF TOOTH AND FANG. THE ONLY REASON FOR YOUR EXISTENCE IS TO PROVIDE SUPERIOR ANIMALS LIKE MYSELF WITH A SNACK BETWEEN BIGGER MEALS.
THAT'S HOW IT IS IN NATURE. NATURE DOESN'T GIVE YOU A SINGLE WEAPON TO DEFEND YOURSELVES. FACE IT--YOU'VE GOT NOTHING.
YOU'RE WRONG.
OH, YEAH? WHAT DO YOU GOT?
FRIENDS.

SHREEE SHREEE SHREEE SHREEE
TY!
KEEP GOING!
SHREEE SHREEE SHREEE SHREEE
SNNNNNNGGGG...
UNGH. GET THE FUCK OUTTA MY FACE YOU UGLY—
—BITCH? HEY. HEY.
SHREEE SHREEE SHREEE SHREEE
AAAARRRK!!
SHREEE SHREEE SHREEE SHREEE

SHREEE SHREEE SHREEE SHREEE
SHREEE SHREEE SHREEE SHREEE
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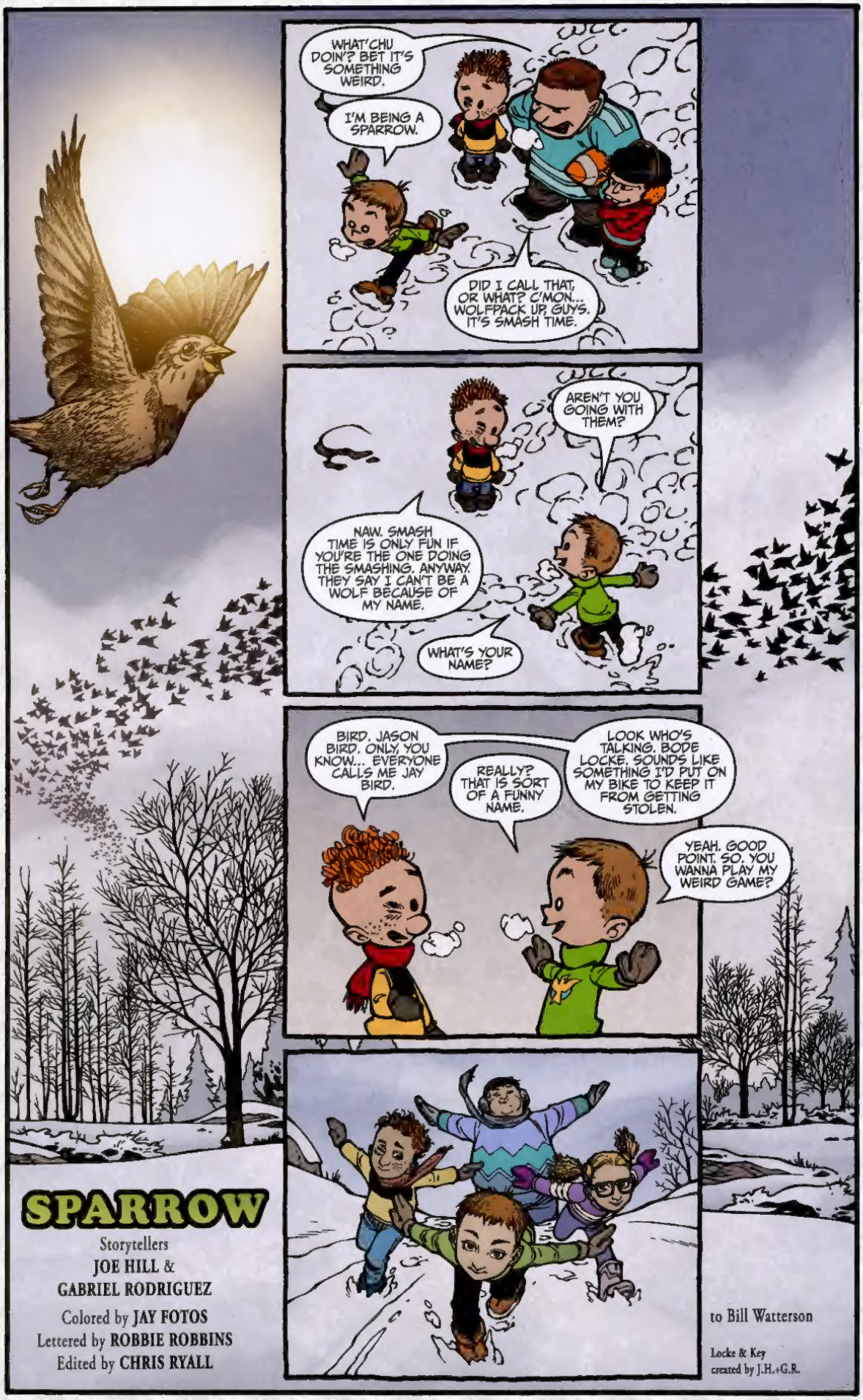
SHREEE SHREEE SHREEE SHREEE

BODE?
BODE?


WHAT'CHU DOIN'? BET IT'S SOMETHING WEIRD.
I'M BEING A SPARROW.
DID I CALL THAT, OR WHAT? C'MON... WOLFPACK UP, GUYS. IT'S SMASH TIME.
AREN'T YOU GOING WITH THEM?
NAW. SMASH TIME IS ONLY FUN IF YOU'RE THE ONE DOING THE SMASHING. ANYWAY, THEY SAY I CAN'T BE A WOLF BECAUSE OF MY NAME.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
BIRD. JASON BIRD. ONLY, YOU KNOW... EVERYONE CALLS ME JAY BIRD.
REALLY? THAT IS SORT OF A FUNNY NAME.
LOOK WHO'S TALKING. BODE LOCKE. SOUNDS LIKE SOMETHING I'D PUT ON MY BIKE TO KEEP IT FROM GETTING STOLEN.
YEAH. GOOD POINT. SO. YOU WANNA PLAY MY WEIRD GAME?

SPARROW

Storytellers
JOE HILL &
GABRIEL RODRIGUEZ

Colored by **JAY FOTOS**
Lettered by **ROBBIE ROBBINS**
Edited by **CHRIS RYALL**

to Bill Watterson

Locke & Key
created by J.H.+G.R.

NEXT MONTH #2
KEYS TO THE KINGDOM
LOCKE & KEY

IDW ORDS
News from the nerve center of IDW Publishing

IDW PUBLISHING IN AUGUST: THE DRAGON DAYS OF SUMMER

In which IDW Chief Creative Officer/Editor-in-Chief puts the focus on some exciting new titles

Some people consider August the "dog days of summer." Not us at IDW—here, we think of August as "hey, we all survived another Comic-Con." But August is also full of some great new releases I wanted to focus you on here.

One book we're really excited about is Science-Fiction Grandmaster **Harlan Ellison's** first new comic series in decades, ***Phoenix Without Ashes***. Ellison is going to remind everyone just why he earned the esteemed title of "grandmaster" with this 4-parter. I'm loathe to say too much about the story itself, since much of it works best when read cold. Pick up the comic this month and see what Harlan and artist **Alan Robinson** have concocted.

Also in August, we're bringing back ***Dungeons & Dragons*** in a big way. And to give you all an affordable look at what's to come, we're releasing a bargain-priced #0 issue, yours for only a buck. In it, you'll get an all-new, 12-page D&D story by writer **John Rogers** and artist **Andrea Di Vito**, the team for our core ongoing title, which will launch in January. Turn the page for a special preview! There's also a 6-page *Dark Sun* story by **Alexander Irvine** and **Peter Bergting**, setting up the *Dark Sun* miniseries to come in January. All that plus concept art, creator interviews and more, yours for only a single dollar.

Locke & Key returns in August, too, with the start of the fourth series, "Keys to the Kingdom." You'll notice something special in the art in this first issue, by series creators **Joe Hill** and **Gabriel Rodriguez**. And if you've heard good things about *Locke & Key* but haven't quite known where to jump in, we're also offering a 40-page, value-priced reprint of the very first *Locke & Key* comic, ***Locke & Key: Welcome to Lovecraft #1 Legacy Edition***. This will contain the full 32-page debut issue plus a photo section starring Joe Hill that recaps the entire story so far. 18 issues of *Locke & Key* have been released so far, with 18 more to come. And all six issues of the *Keys to the Kingdom* miniseries are standalone issues, making it even easier for you to catch up with this acclaimed series.

Beyond these titles, keep an eye out for ***After the Fire***, an all-new, standalone graphic novel created and written by **Tom Waltz**, a never-before-published ***Phantom Jack*** graphic novel, the third *Zombies vs Robots* oversize hardcover, and, well, the full slate of comics and graphic novels you see below.

I'll see you back here in this space next month, to discuss things like **Robert Rodriguez**'s ***Machete***, **Joe Hill**'s new ***Kodiak***, and more. Til then, enjoy these Dragon days of summer!

Chris Ryall,
Chief Creative Officer/
Editor-in-Chief

IDW

AUGUST RELEASES FROM IDW PUBLISHING

COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS • COMICS

- Angel #36
- Bram Stoker's Death Ship #4
- Doctor Who Classics III #6
- Doctor Who #14
- Dragon Age #4
- Dungeons & Dragons #0
- G.I. Joe #21
- G.I. Joe: A Real American Hero #157
- G.I. Joe: Cobra #7
- G.I. Joe: Hearts and Minds #4
- G.I. Joe: Origins #18
- Jurassic Park #3
- Kill Shakespeare #4
- Killing the Cobra: Chinatown Trollop #4
- The Last Unicorn #3
- Locke & Key: Keys to the Kingdom #1
- Locke & Key: Welcome to Lovecraft Legacy Edition #1
- MGM Midnite Movies: It! The Terror from Beyond Space #2
- The Murder of King Tut #3
- Mystery Society #3
- Pantheon #5
- Phoenix Without Ashes #1
- The Pilgrim #4
- Spike: The Devil You Know #3
- Star Trek Movie Adaptation #6
- Star Trek: Burden of Knowledge #3
- Starstruck #12
- Strange Science Fantasy #2
- Transformers #10
- Transformers: Ironhide #4
- Transformers: Nefarious #6
- True Blood #2
- Wire Hangers #4
- Witch & Wizard: The Battle for Shadowland #4
- Yours Truly, Jack the Ripper #3

GRAPHIC NOVELS
ART BOOKS • SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

- After the Fire TPB
- Alex Van Helsing: Sword of Dracula TPB
- Angel: A Hole in the World TPB
- Classic G.I. Joe, Vol. 9 TPB
- Dick Briefer's Frankenstein HC
- G.I. Joe: Best of Scarlett TPB
- G.I. Joe: Origins, Vol. 3 TPB
- Hodge the Hedgehog HC
- Next Men Premiere Edition, Vol. 3 HC
- Phantom Jack TPB
- Polly and Her Pals, Vol. 1 HC
- Star Trek Omnibus: The Original Series TPB
- Clive Barker's The Thief of Always TPB
- Transformers: Armada Omnibus TPB
- Transformers: Best of Megatron TPB
- Transformers: Last Stand of the Wreckers TPB
- Zombies vs Robots Aventure Oversize HC

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